

Collaborative Approaches to Accelerate Better Therapies for Patients with Rare Tumors

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Karlyne Reilly, PhD, NCI, POB

on behalf of MyPART/CCDI/COG/Ultra-Rare Public-Private Partnership Collaborators



Overview

1. Definition of rare tumors and challenges
2. Landscape of rare tumor efforts
3. MyPART
4. CCDI national rare tumor effort
 - International collaboration
5. Public-private partnership to enable drug development for ultra-rare tumors

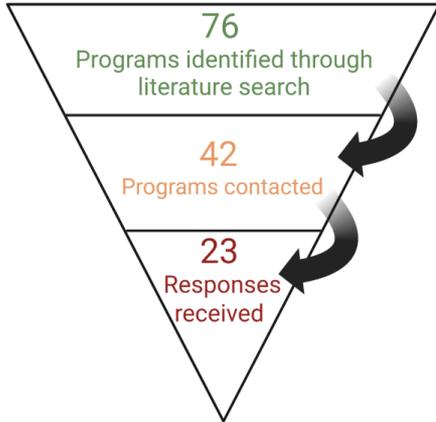
Rare Tumors Present Unique Challenges

- Rare cancer: <150 cases/million/year
 - 27% of cancer diagnoses and 25% of cancer deaths
 - All pediatric cancers, nervous system cancers, and sarcomas are rare
- Challenges for patients:
 - Long time to diagnosis
 - Limited experience at many medical centers
 - No “standard of care”
 - Limited social and advocacy support
- Challenges for researchers:
 - Long time accruing to clinical trials
 - Limited tools and diversity of models
 - Limited support from granting agencies
 - Limited financial incentives for industry to collaborate on drug development

Landscape of Rare Tumor Research

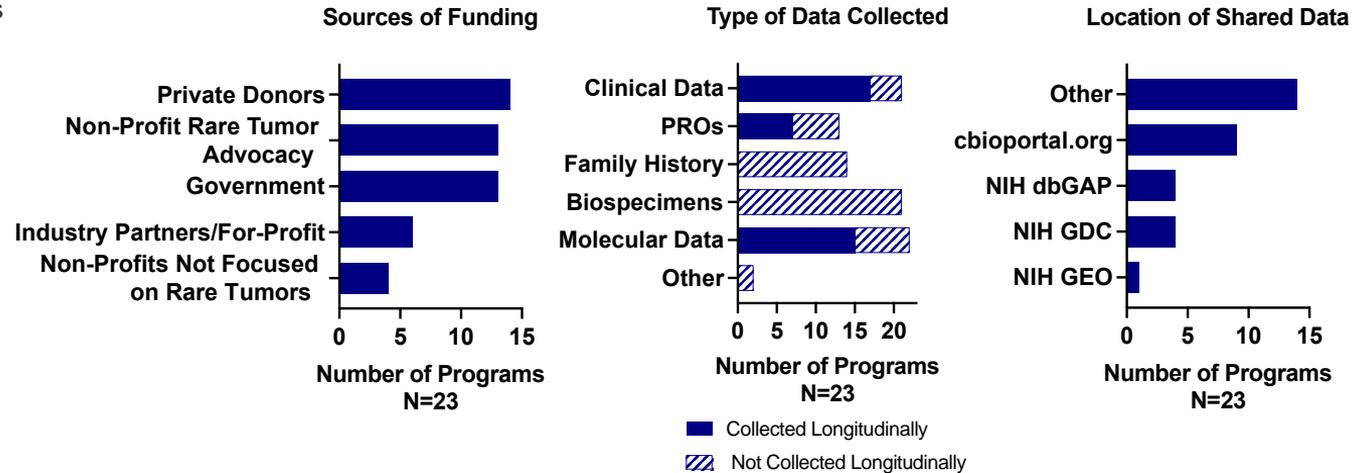
Landscape of Rare Tumor Research Programs: Funding and Data Sharing

Survey of 42 Rare Tumor/Cancer Programs
Conducted **May – Nov 2021**
45 optional questions



Information Collected:

- Program Description
- Funding Mechanisms
- Patient Population
- Engagement/Outreach
- Biospecimen/Data Collection
- COVID-19 Impact



- Funded primarily by philanthropy, advocacy, and government
- Most data is not collected longitudinally
- No standardized data collection across programs*
- The rare tumor research community is inclined to share data, but more work is needed to make data **findable** and reduce burden of data sharing*

* Goal of Childhood Cancer Data Initiative est 2019

My Pediatric and Adult Rare Tumor Network (MyPART)

MyPART Mission

Mission: Increase patient and family involvement in rare tumor research to develop new therapies for rare pediatric and adult solid tumors through increased understanding of tumor biology and natural history



MyPART: My Pediatric and Adult Rare Tumor Network

A close-up photograph of a healthcare professional, likely a nurse or doctor, with a stethoscope around her neck, looking at a young girl. The girl is wearing a white surgical cap and looking back at the professional. The background is blurred, suggesting a clinical setting.

Engaging patients,
advocates, and
researchers to improve
the lives of young people
with rare cancers

www.cancer.gov/mypart

- Focusing on rare solid tumors affecting **children, teens, and young adults (≤ 39 yo)**
- Engaging patients, family members, advocates, clinicians, scientists, as **partners in research**
- Collecting longitudinal **molecular, clinical, and patient reported** outcome data through the **Natural History Study of Rare Solid Tumors (NCT03739827)**
- Holding **workshops and symposia** on rare tumors to develop expert consensus
- Hosting **multi-day clinics** for rare tumors to bring patients and nationwide experts together
- Building a **multi-institutional network** of sites to collaborate on data collection

Clinical Research Key Accomplishments



- Development of Natural History Study and tumor-specific subprotocols
- Remote enrollment during COVID pandemic
- Analysis of tumor and blood/saliva biospecimens
- Expansion of Rare Tumor Specialty Clinics at NIH
- Interventional trials for children and adults with rare tumors with NCI Developmental Therapeutics Clinic
- Clinical and biospecimen data submitted to dbGAP
 - ✓ 10662 data fields on first 500 participants
 - ✓ 57245 data fields of first 200 participants
 - ✓ Variant calls for 193 tumors
 - ✓ 2370 biospecimen annotation fields for 193 tumors
 - ✓ Public release under controlled access est Q4 2023
(Ahmed et al [Cancer Research Comm](#), accepted)

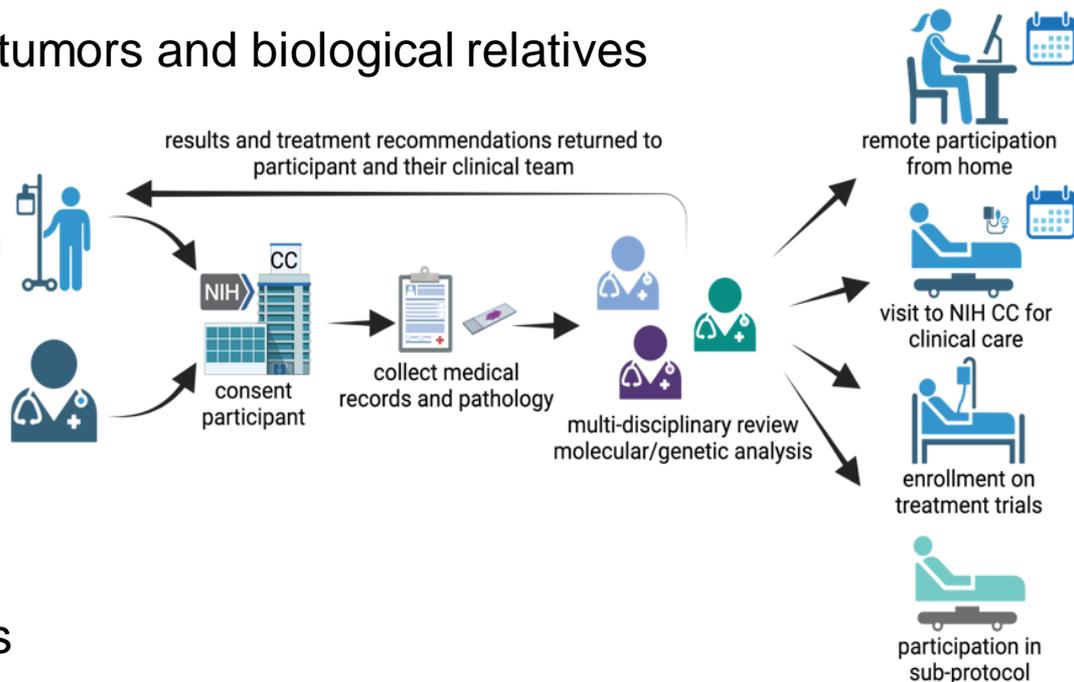
Natural History Study of Rare Solid Tumors (NCT03739827)



Mary Frances
Wedekind Malone

Jaydira
Del Rivero

- Standardized longitudinal evaluation: Retrospective and prospective
 - Medical and family history, patient reported outcomes, clinical evaluation
 - Extensive medical record data extraction
- Children and adults with rare solid tumors and biological relatives
 - Off or on site participation
 - Treatment recommendations
- Comprehensive molecular profiling
 - Tumor tissue, blood, saliva
- Molecular tumor board
- Genetic counseling
- Annotated biospecimen repository
- Development of interventional trials



Natural History Study Enrollment



BJ Thomas

Donna
Bernstein

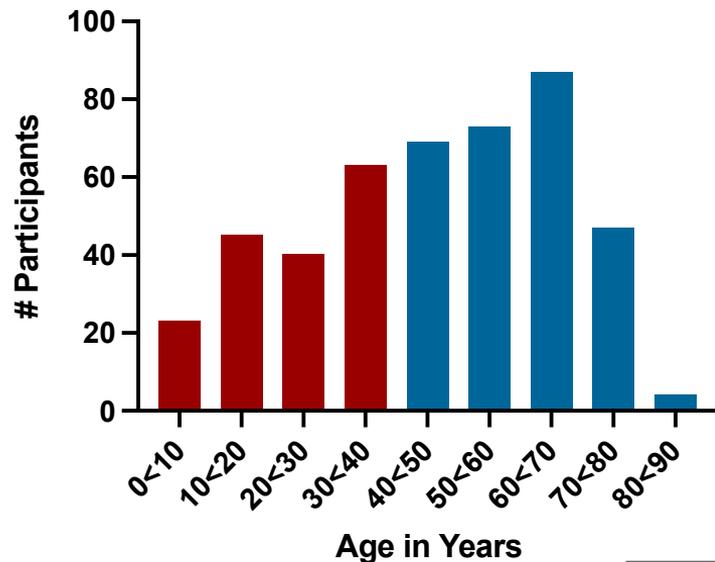
Crystal
Flowers

Oxana
Kapustina

Marcia
Young

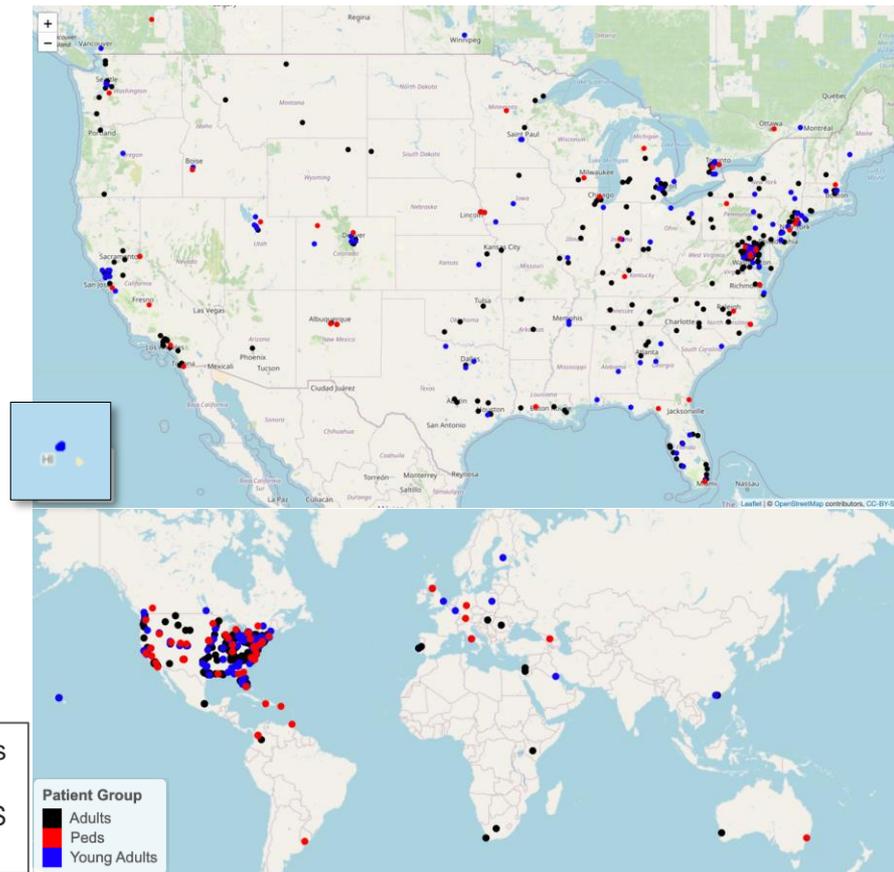
- Protocol started enrolling January 28, 2019
- As of Sept 1, 2023, **571** participants have enrolled

Age Frequency Distribution

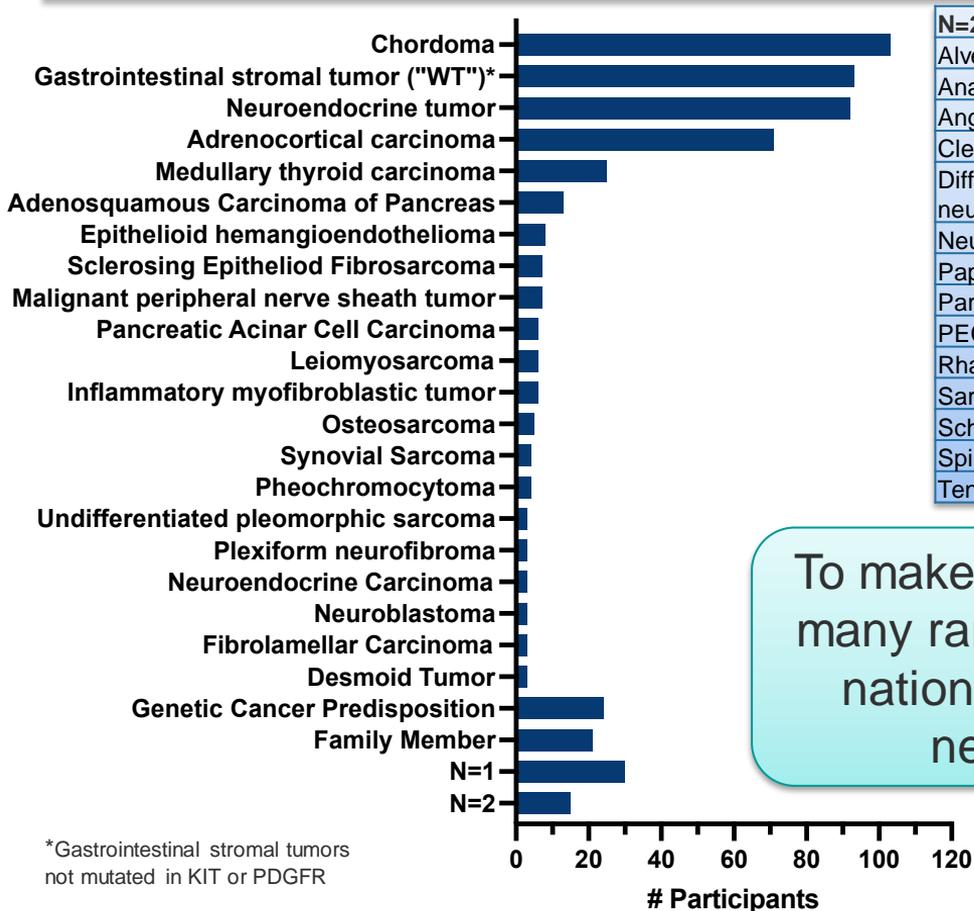


Data as of 9/1/23

- >68 different histologies
- 6 continents
- 27 countries outside US
- 46 US states, DC, PR



Natural History Study Enrollment



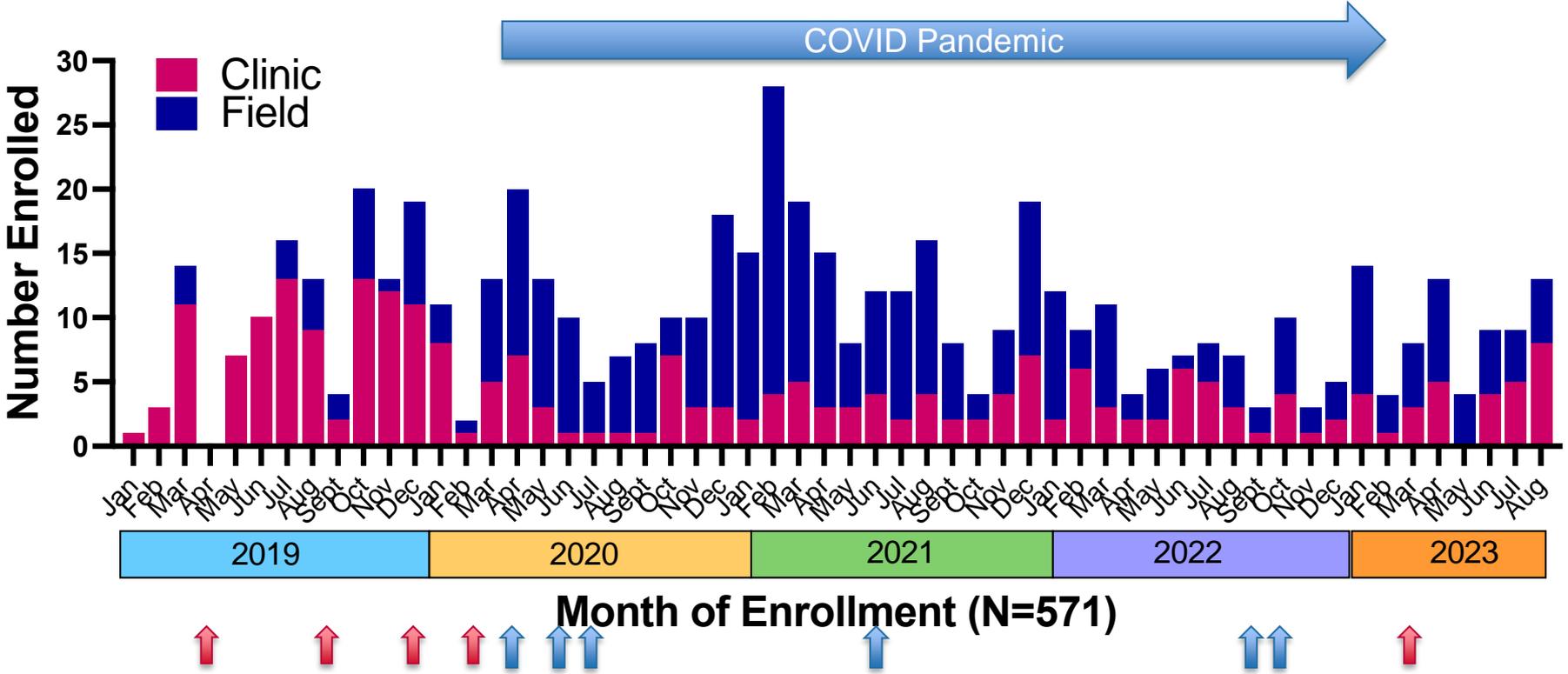
*Gastrointestinal stromal tumors not mutated in KIT or PDGFR

N=2 Participants
Alveolar soft part sarcoma
Anaplastic thyroid cancer
Angiosarcoma
Clear cell sarcoma
Diffuse idiopathic pulmonary neuroendocrine cell hyperplasia
Neurofibroma
Papillary thyroid carcinoma
Parathyroid carcinoma
PEComa
Rhabdomyosarcoma
Sarcoma
Schwannoma
Spindle cell carcinoma
Tenosynovial giant cell tumor

N=1 Participant
Acute myelogenous leukemia
Adamantinoma-like EWS
Atypical myofibroblastic neoplasm
Carcinoma of unknown primary
Cervical cancer
Colon adenocarcinoma
Epithelioid MPNST
Ewing Sarcoma, cutaneous
Ganglioneuroblastoma
Paraganglioma
Glomangiosarcoma
Heptatoblastoma
Hereditary Leiomyomatosis, Renal cell carcinoma
Malignant spindle cell neoplasm
Malignant triton tumor
Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma
Mixed adeno-neuroendocrine carcinoma
Mucinous adenocarcinoma of the appendix
Mucinous cystoadenocarcinoma
Myoepithelial carcinoma
Myxofibrosarcoma
NUT carcinoma
NUTM1 rearranged sarcoma
Optic glioma
Pancreatic cancer, NOS
Pancreatoblastoma
Mucoepidermoid carcinoma
Sarcomatoid squamous cell carcinoma
Spindle cell fibrous tumor

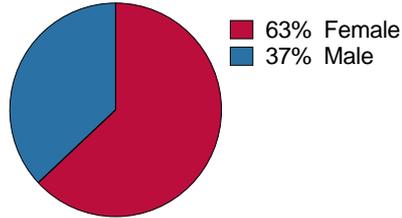
To make progress in many rare tumors, a national effort is needed

Effect of COVID Pandemic on Patient Enrollment



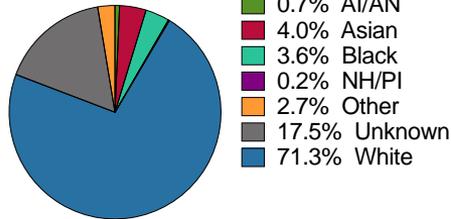
Sex, Race, Ethnicity

Sex



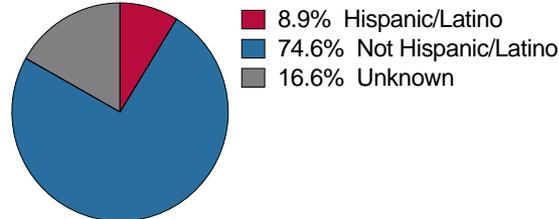
Total=571

Race



Total=571

Ethnicity



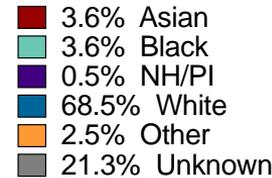
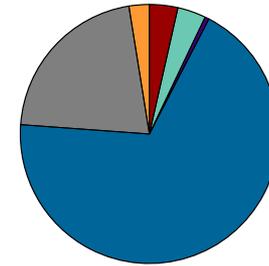
Total=571

Enrollment as of Sept 1, 2023

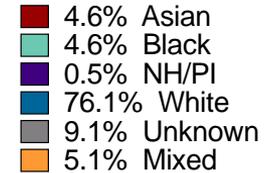
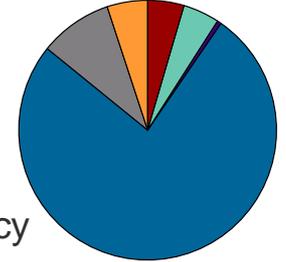
- ✓ More females than males due to tumor types
- ✓ Working on improving outreach to underrepresented populations

Analysis of Race Data in First 200 Enrollees

Medical Record



Medical Record + Self-Report



14.4% discrepancy

- ✓ Including self-reported race improves assignment of race to participants
- ✓ 14.4% discrepancy between self-reported race and race in medical record

Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs) for Rare Tumors



Robin Lockridge

- MyPART uses 25 instruments to gather data
 - Adults, children, guardians
 - Anxiety, cognitive functioning, depression, fatigue, mobility, pain, peer relations, emotional support, upper extremity function
- Preliminary analysis demonstrates differences in PROs for particular tumor types (e.g. medullary thyroid cancer*)
 - Ongoing projects to analyze baseline PRO data for Chordoma, ACC, and NET
- Data has led to expanded tumor-specific PRO collection in sub-protocols

Molecular Analysis of Biospecimens



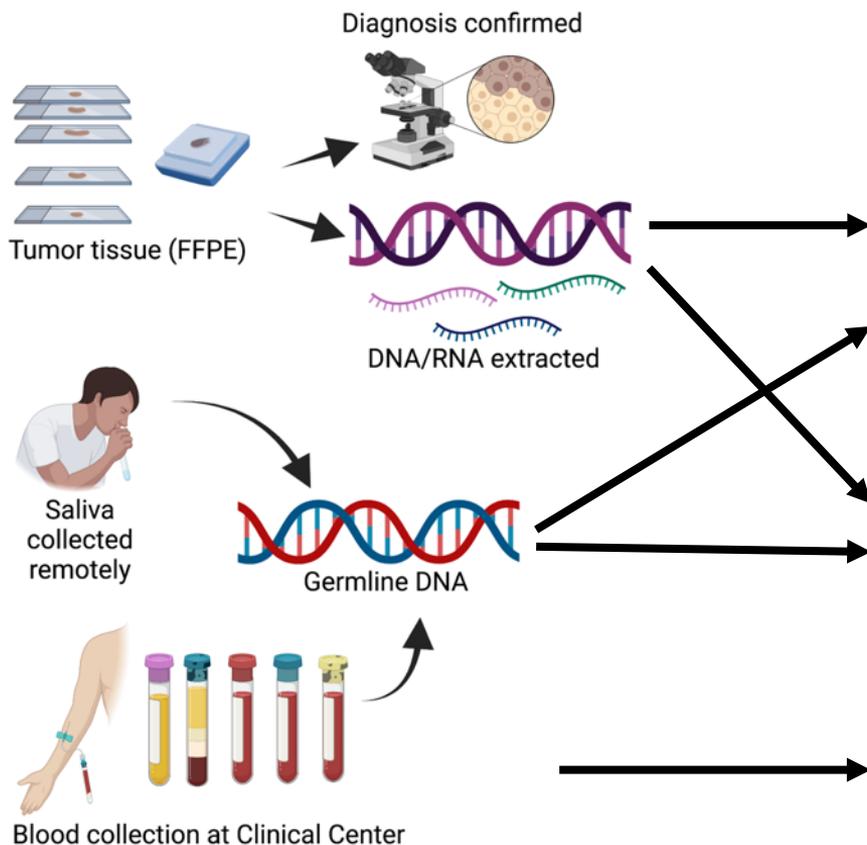
Margarita
Raygada



Ken Aldape
LP, CCR



Mark Raffeld
LP, CCR



Results returned to patients (CLIA):

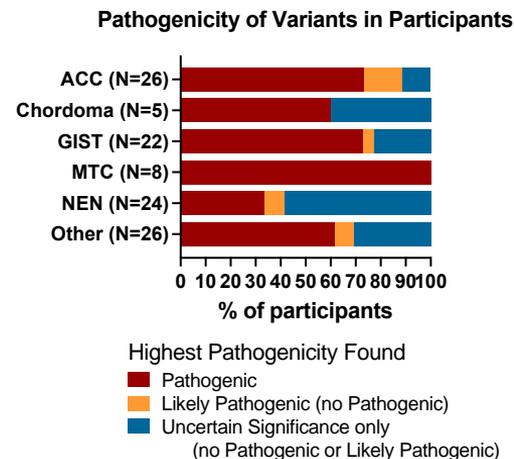
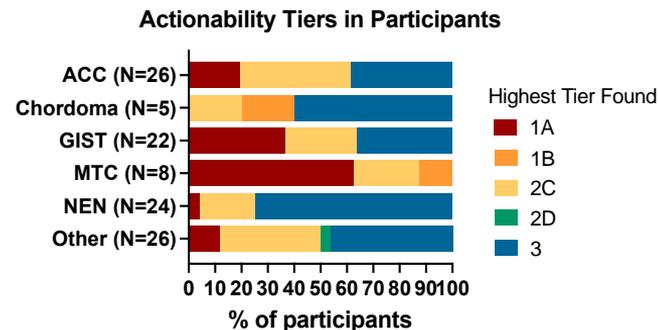
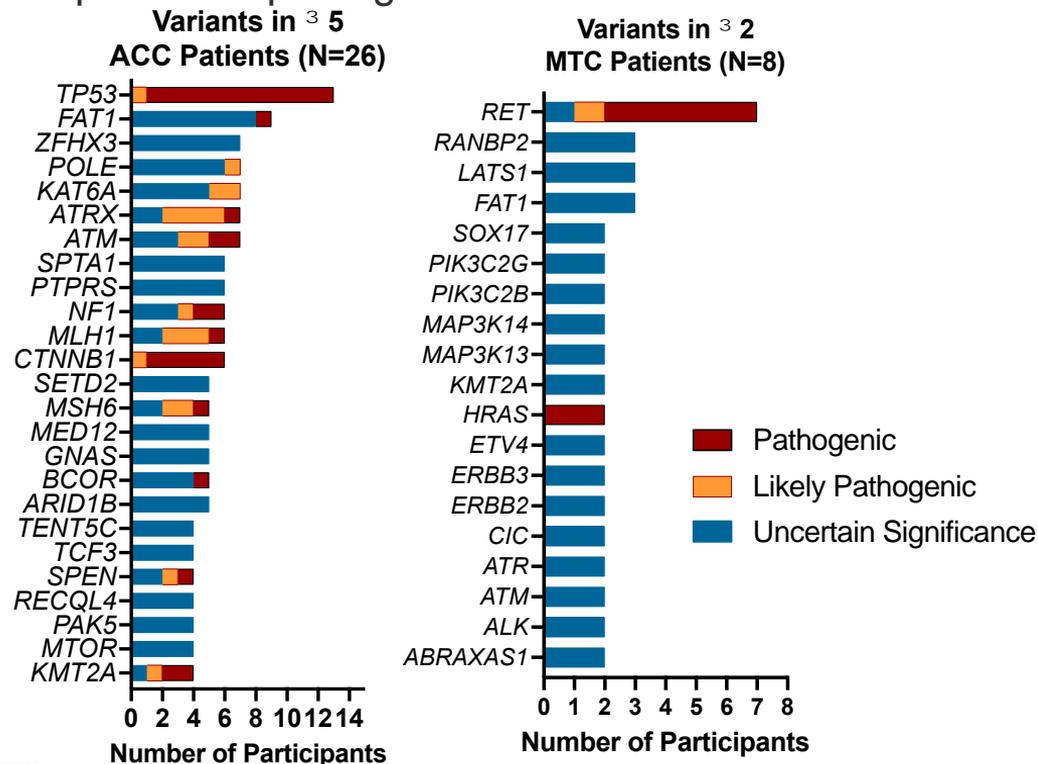
- Consensus diagnosis (Molecular Tumor Board)
- Actionable gene mutations (TSO500)
- Matched tumor-germline WES (FY21)
- Germline DNA sequencing (if clinically indicated)
- RNAseq (FY22)

Data collected for research:

- Matched tumor-germline WES
- Shallow WGS
- DNA methylation arrays (EPIC)
- Matched tumor-germline WGS (pilot)
- Tumor RNAseq
- Blood RNAseq
- PBMC immune phenotypes
 - lymphoid and myeloid cells
 - activation and maturation states
 - immune checkpoint markers
- Cytokine levels in plasma

Analysis of Tumor Biospecimens From First 200 Participants Using Trusight Oncology 500 Gene Panel Sequencing

- Out of ~500 genes tested, expected pathogenic mutations were identified (e.g. ACC and MTC)
- Proportion of pathogenic and actionable mutations varied by tumor



New Rare Tumor Clinics Using the wt-GIST Clinic Model

- Clinics bring 10-15 patients with select very rare tumors to the NIH CC
 - Disease experts (intra- and extramural) and advocates
 - Detailed clinical and biospecimen evaluations
 - Patient reported outcomes, focus groups
 - Patients meet with each other and with experts
 - Communication of expert opinion
- Established new rare tumor clinics
 - WT-GIST; planning Sept 2023 clinic
 - Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma
 - Chordoma; 4th yearly clinic held May 2023
- Remote and in-person participation
- Planning new clinics



Inaugural pediatric chordoma clinic



Pediatric Chordoma: Paradigm for Very Rare Tumor Research

Interest within IRP

CCR/DCEG
Chordoma
Working Group
27 members



Workshop of national
leaders in research and advocacy



June 15, 2018



Formalized partnership
with Chordoma Foundation



A program of the National Cancer Institute
of the National Institutes of Health



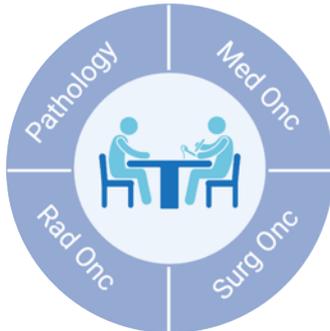
Natural history study
Chordoma subprotocol



Grant applications and
new treatment trials for
chordoma patients



Pediatric chordoma
working group



45 extramural members
July 2020 to present



Multi-Institution
virtual tumor boards



First pediatric chordoma clinic
at the NIH Clinical Center



April 16-18, 2019

Phase II trial of Tiragolumab + Atezolizumab

Expression of PD-L1 and TIGIT in SMARCB1 deficient tumors

- Tiragolumab: Monoclonal antibody against TIGIT
- Atezolizumab: Monoclonal antibody against PD-L1

Eligibility:

- SMARCB1 or SMARCA4 deficient tumors
- Ages \geq 12 months
- **Cohorts:**
 - Poorly differentiated chordoma
 - Renal medullary carcinoma
 - Malignant rhabdoid tumor (extra-CNS)
 - Atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumor (CNS)
 - Epithelioid sarcoma
 - Other SMARCB1 or SMARCA4 deficient tumors

NCI-CTEP: Multi-site, PEP-CTN coordinated

- Collaboration with NCI DTC, UOB, POB
- Correlative studies supported by MyPART

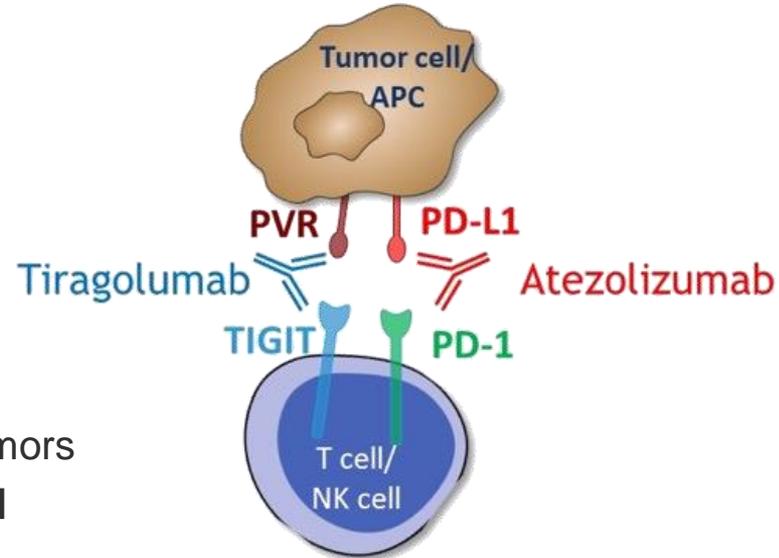


Figure adapted from Manieri et al.
Trends Immunology 2017



Mary Frances
Wedekind Malone



Srivandana
Akshintala



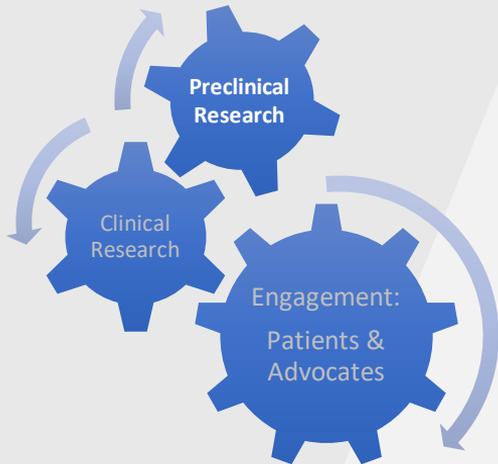
Alice Chen, DTC



James
Doroshov, DTC

Preclinical Research

Key Accomplishments



- Development of new PDX and organoid models of rare tumors
- Generation of *Sdhb*-deficient and *BRaf*^{V600E} mouse models of “wt” GIST

Preclinical Models

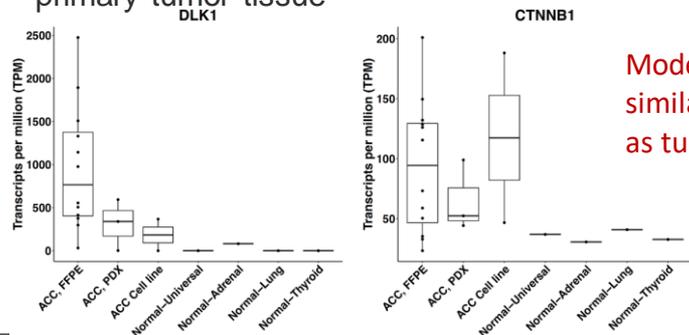
Orthotopic Patient-Derived Xenografts (PDX):

- Medullary thyroid carcinoma (1 patient)
- Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma (1 patient)
- Adrenocortical carcinoma (5 patients)
- SDH-def Gastrointestinal stromal tumor (2 patients)
- Chordoma (1 patient)
- Synovial sarcoma (1 patient)
- Rhabdoid tumor (1 patient)

Orthotopic metastatic ACC PDX-3 (P2)



- DNA and RNA from models are being sequenced with primary tumor tissue



Models overexpress similar ACC markers as tumors



Francesco Tomassoni Ardori

John Glod

Lino Tessarollo MCGP

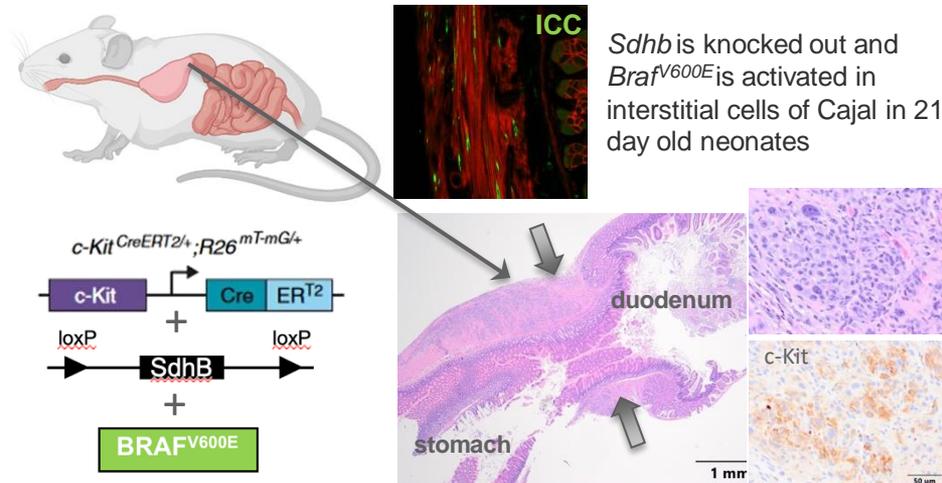
Arnulfo Mendoza

Carol Thiele

Rosa Nguyen

Jaydira Del Rivero

Genetically engineered mouse model of “wild-type” GIST



Engagement Key Accomplishments



- Multiple communications platforms maintained
 - ✓ Website, Newsletter, Twitter
 - ✓ Multimedia
- Advocacy partnerships/outreach:
 - Advocacy network of 29 partners
 - Targeted 1-on-1 outreach

Advocacy Engagement and Communications



Abby Sandler
Christina Vivelo

- Established 29 advocacy partnerships
 - English and Spanish version
 - Approximately 70,000 unique visitors per month
- The MyPART Minute (Newsletter): 13,000 subscribers
- POB Twitter (@NCI_CCR_PedOnc): 1,700 followers

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
Center for Cancer Research

MyPART - My Pediatric and Adult Rare Tumor Network

Natural History Study of Rare Solid Tumors

1 What is a natural history study?

An observational study follows patients with a disease over a long period of time to learn how it changes. It is not a treatment trial.

2 How do you participate?

From home:

- Spit into saliva sample
- Give us permission to get your medical
- Mail saliva sample to
- Fill out forms on medical history.

Faithanne Hill, 19
STUDY PARTICIPANT

5:45 / 14:21

MyPART Experience/Future

- **Advocacy** and clinical/scientific **rare tumor expertise** are critical
- **NIH Rare Tumor Clinics** provide insight one could not get through evaluation of single patients at multiple sites
- Building meaningful cohorts is **resource and time intensive**
- **Focus on select tumor types** is needed to accrue sufficient patient numbers
- **Partnership** with consortia / COG / community hospitals / advocacy and national experts will be critical to **accelerate** rare tumor progress

NCI CCDI vision for rare tumors

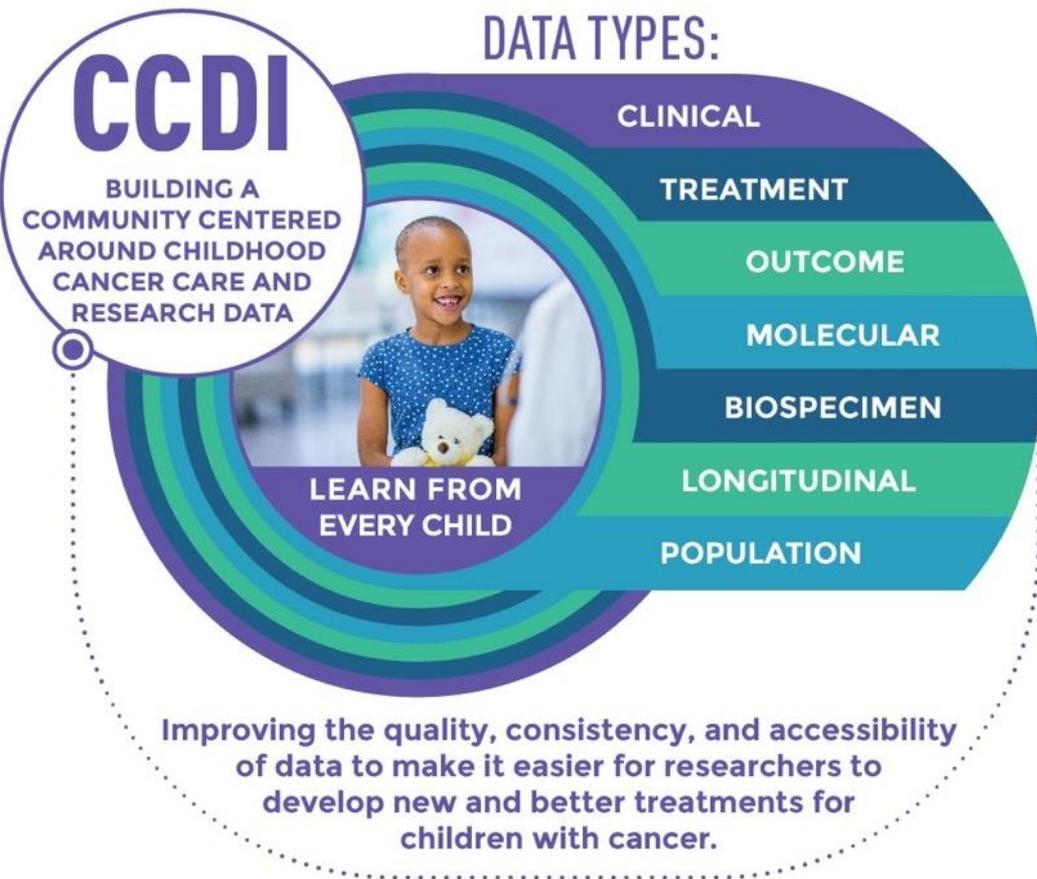
- Develop a collaborative national strategy for very rare pediatric and AYA cancers coordinated by the NCI CCDI
- Goal to efficiently study and characterize rare tumors and advance therapies

CCDI national rare tumor effort

NCI Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI)



Gregory Reaman



Learn from and use data

- EHR pilots
- Cohorts
- Survivorship
- Data catalog

Aggregate and generate data

- Preclinical models
- **Molecular characterization initiative**
- **National rare tumor initiative**

Build foundational infrastructure

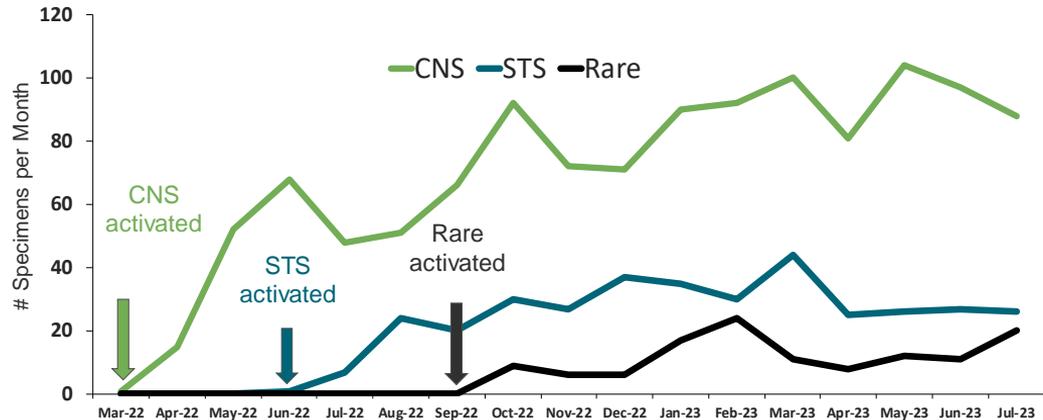
- Data ecosystem
- CCDI participant index
- Computable consent
- Tools interoperability
- Federated infrastructure
- Clinical data commons

CCDI Molecular Characterization Initiative (MCI)

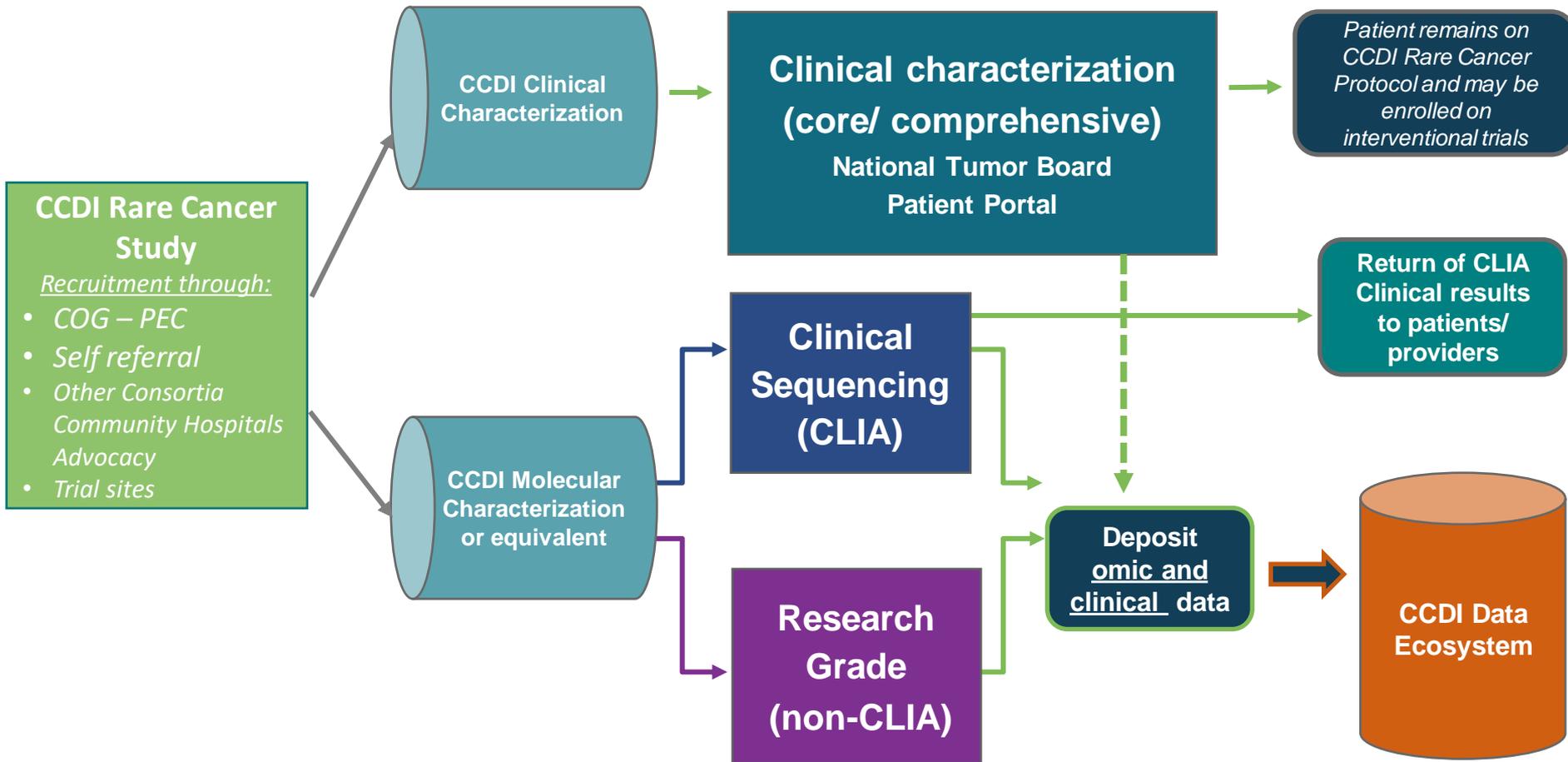
- Partnership between NCI and COG Project:EveryChild
- State-of-the-art molecular characterization at diagnosis (WES, fusions, methylation)
- Results returned to participants and treating physicians within 21 days
- Identification of molecular tumor subtypes
- In its first year, MCI enrolled more than 1,000 participants from 47 states, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand

Enrollment as of
Aug 2023 is 3035
patients

Specimens for Sequencing (monthly)



CCDI-Coordinated Rare Pediatric/AYA Cancer Study



Centralized Coordination with Distributed “Champions”

Disease Champion PIs
Advocacy/Research Partners
Disease-Specific Data Collection



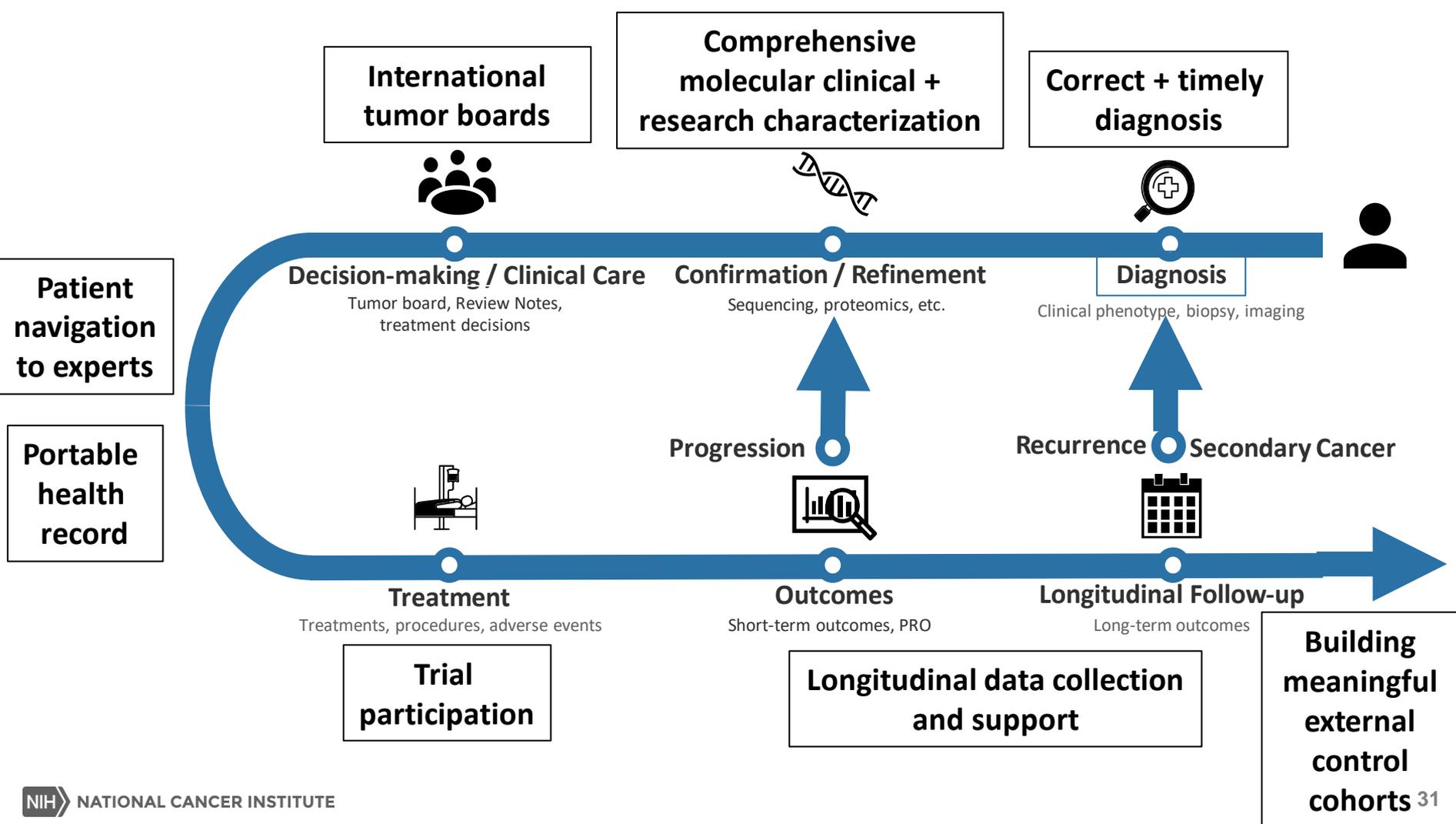
Preexisting Programs Could Participate as Disease Champions or Integrate Data for Rare Tumor Comparisons

International Collaboration:
EU Beating Cancer Plan



Centralized Overall Study PI
Remote Enrollment
Core Data Collection





Proposal for a Public-Private Partnership to Develop Drugs for Ultra-Rare Cancers

Project Design and Planning Committee



FDA:

- ❖ Jeff Summers, Assoc Dir Translational Sciences, Office of Oncologic Diseases, CDER
- ❖ Marc Theoret, Deputy Director, Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
- ❖ Martha Donoghue, Assoc Dir Pediatric Oncology and Rare Cancers Program, OCE
- ❖ Joan Todd, Senior Health Scientist, OCE

NCI:

- ❖ Karlyne Reilly, Director, Rare Tumor Initiative, Pediatric Oncology Branch, CCR
- ❖ Malcolm Smith, Assoc Branch Chief, Pediatrics, Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, DCTD
- ❖ Alice Chen, Head, Developmental Therapeutics Clinic, DCTD
- ❖ Monica Pond, Program Dir and Team Lead, Small Business Innovation Research Development Center
- ❖ Billy Bozza, Program Dir, Small Business Innovation Research Development Center
- ❖ Brigitte Widemann, Chief, Pediatric Oncology Branch, CCR
- ❖ James Doroshov, Director, DCTD and Deputy Director NCI

NCATS:

- ❖ Liz Ottinger, Acting Director, Therapeutic Development Branch
- ❖ Joni Rutter, Director, NCATS

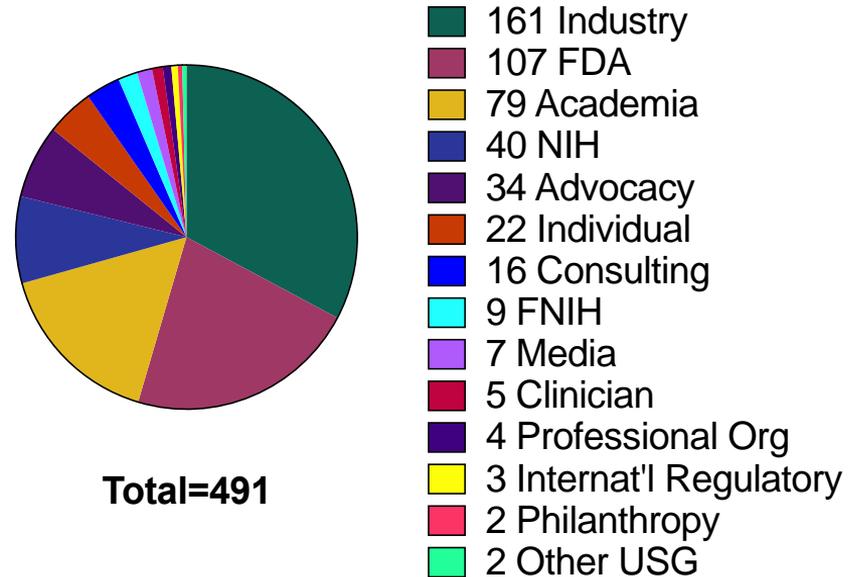
FNIH:

- ❖ Stacey Adam, Associate Vice President, Science Partnerships - Translational Science
- ❖ Dana Connors, Director, Translational Science – Cancer
- ❖ Kat Lambertson, Project Manager, Translational Science

Project Design and Planning Committee



Registrants at Aug 2023 Stakeholder Meeting



Ultra-Rare Tumors

- The Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS) defines “ultra-rare” sarcomas as those with an annual incidence of <1 in 1,000,000
“entities whose rarity makes it extremely difficult to conduct well powered prospective clinical studies”
-Stacchiotti et al 2021
- Orphanet ranks rare diseases according to 6 prevalence bins, with the rarest being <1 in 1,000,000 (European-based)
 - 1 in 1,000,000 is ~340 cases in the current US population
- Review of data from Orphanet and CTOS analysis suggests there are ≥ 222 ultra-rare tumors, of which ≥ 60 have characteristic molecular alterations
 - ~75,000 people affected by ultra-rare tumors each year
 - ≥ 29 ultra-rare tumors with fusions
 - ≥ 38 with disease-causing germline or somatic mutations
- ~43% of participants on the MyPART study have an ultra-rare tumor

Examples of Disease-Causing Gene Mutations
in Ultra-Rare Tumors

APC	CSF3R	IDH1	NPM1	SMARCA4
ASXL1	CTNNB1	IDH2	PRKAR1A	TERT
ATP4A	DICER1	KIT	SDHB	TET2
CDC73	DNMT3A	MET	SDHC	TP53
CDKN2A	FLT3	NF1	SDHD	ZNF3

Guiding Principles and Assumptions For Ultra-Rare Tumors



- Patients with ultra-rare tumors are as deserving of curative therapies as patients with common cancers
- Due to the high cost of drug development and very limited commercial market, drugs are unlikely to be economically sustainable under current supply-demand paradigms



- Many of the critical steps of drug discovery/development fall to advocacy organizations and academic researchers
- Existing, potentially effective drugs may be shelved or otherwise unavailable due to lack of use in more common cancers → lack of economic incentive to continue development
- Drivers of ultra-rare tumors exist, but have not been fully exploited because they are specific to ultra-rare tumors



NIH and FDA are well-poised to reduce hurdles in drug development for ultra-rare tumors by establishing public-private partnerships to incentivize drug development and clinical trials, with the aid of FNIH

Public-Private Partnership for Ultra-Rare Tumor Drug Development

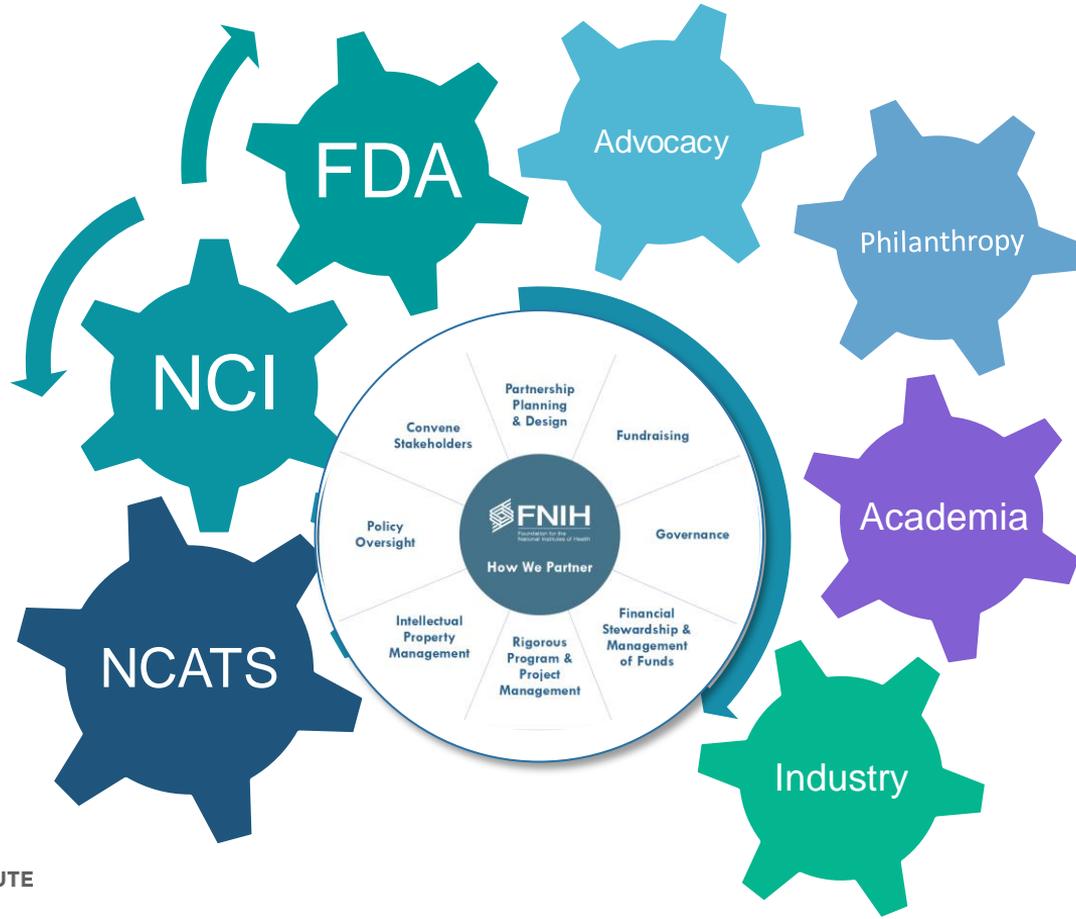
Aim

To harness **state-of-the art technologies** to target **well-established but previously undruggable biologic vulnerabilities** of ultra-rare cancers that **lack commercial incentive** for drug development through an **open science, multistakeholder public/private partnership**.

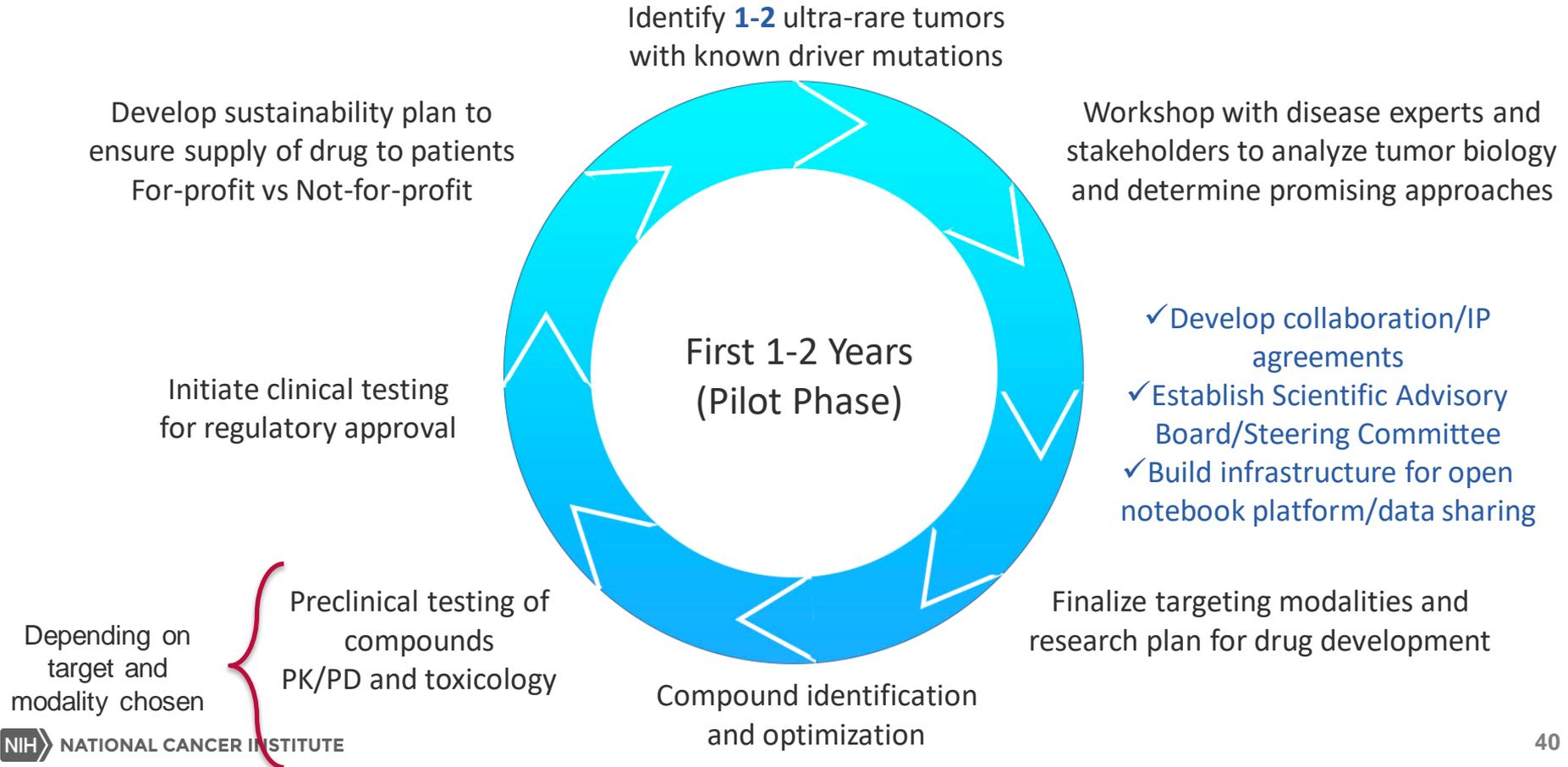
Objectives

- Explore in-depth the pathognomonic biology of select ultra-rare cancers to identify and characterize molecular vulnerabilities that confer potential druggable targets.
- Evaluate the feasibility and expediency of various drug development platforms to target the identified aberrant biology.
- Develop an open-science process across government, academia, and industry to leverage and coordinate resources in developing drugs for ultra-rare cancer indications.
- Coordinate and champion the development, from concept to clinical trial, of a drug targeting the aberrant biology of an ultra-rare cancer.

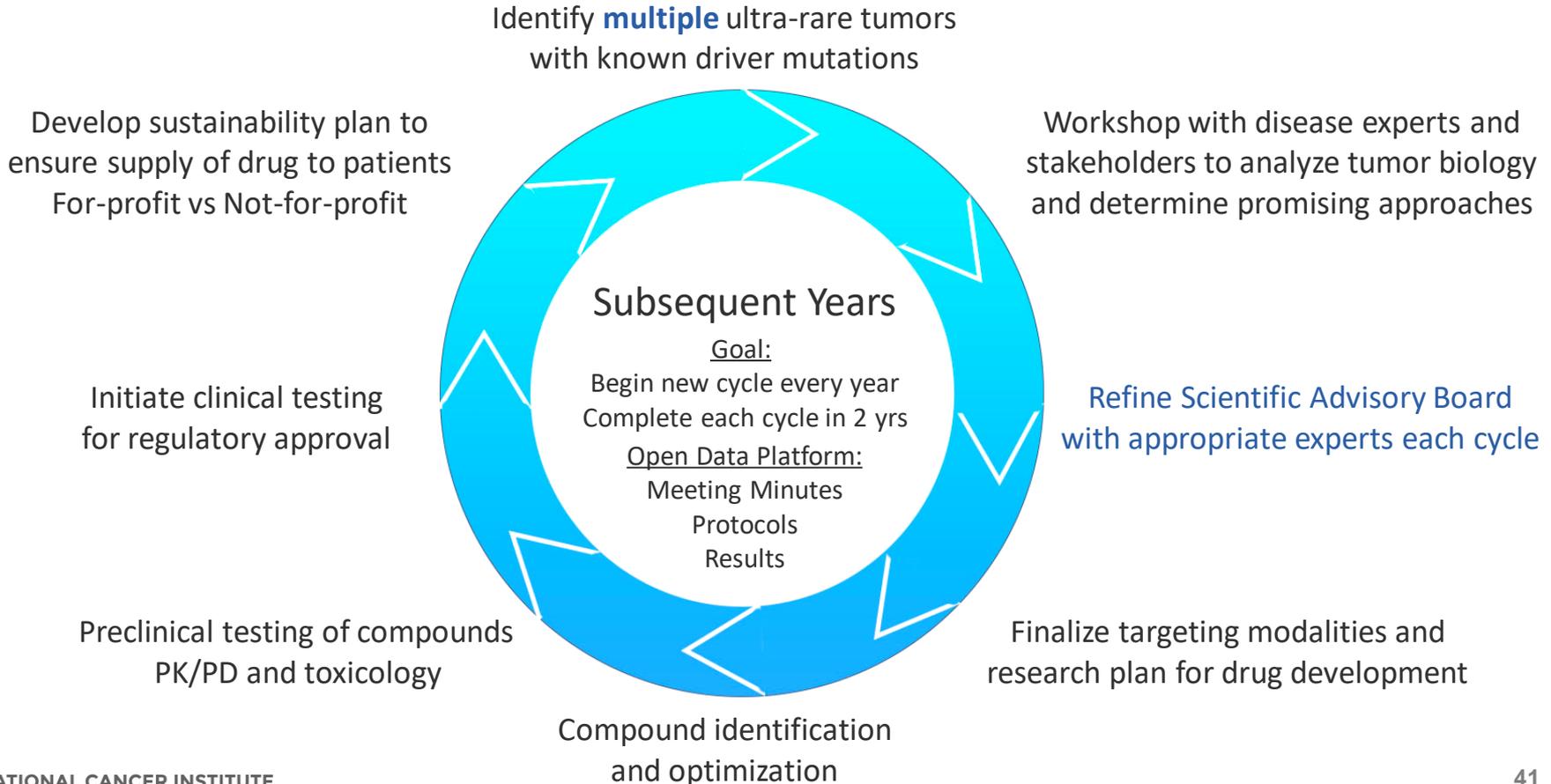
Proposed Structure of Public-Private Partnership



Cycle of Drug Development for Public-Private Partnership

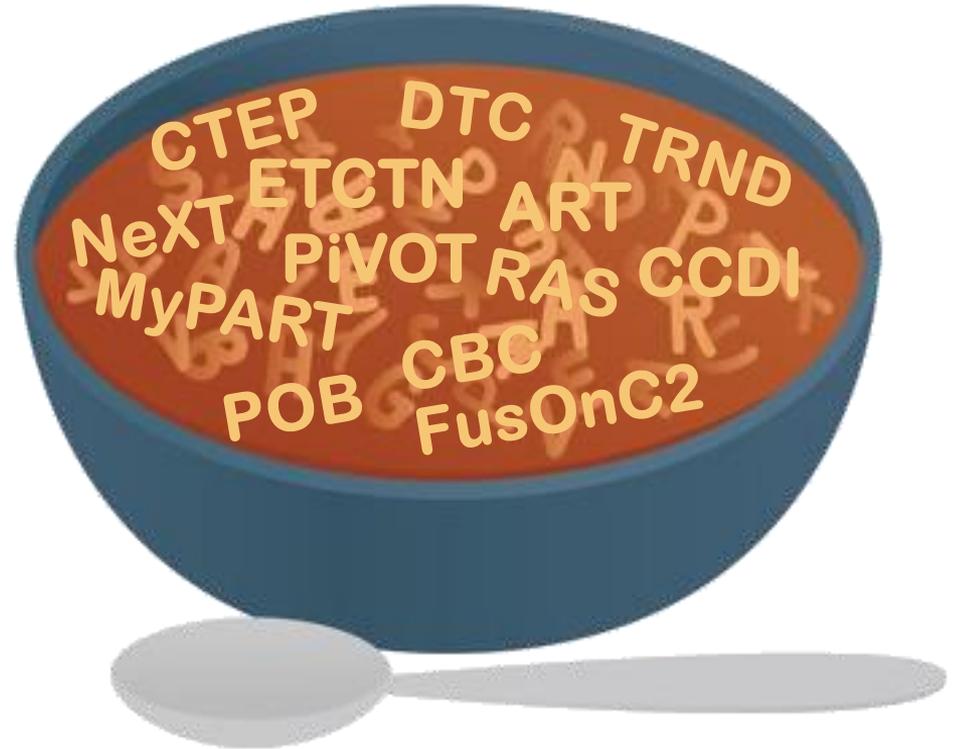


Cycle of Drug Development for Public-Private Partnership



Many NIH Programs Exist That Could Be Harnessed for Drug Development in Ultra-Rare Tumors

- Compound Identification and Molecular Optimization (SAR)
- Preclinical Optimization and Testing
- Natural History of Rare Tumors
- Molecular Characterization
- Early Phase Clinical Trials
- Clinical Trial Networks



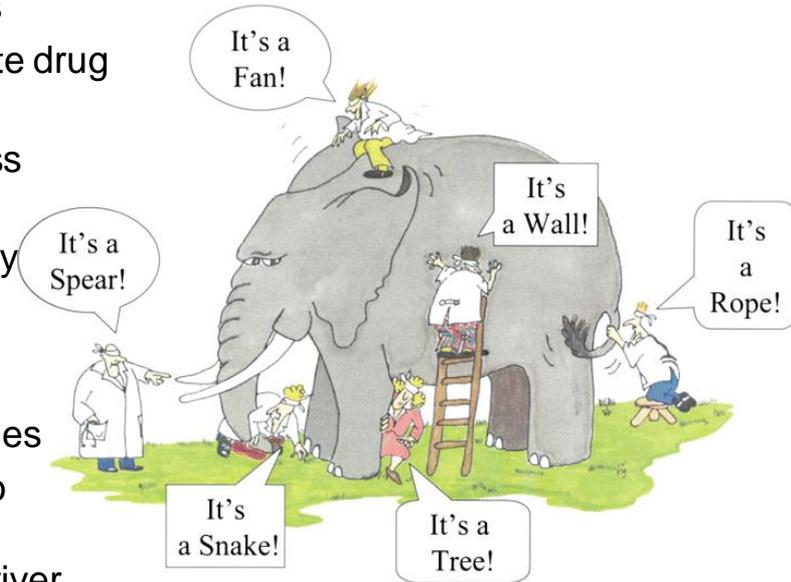
Making sure we're all talking about the same thing!

What the proposed PPP is:

- Addressing **unmet** need in **ultra-rare** tumors (<1 per million or ≤300 cases in US)
- Focusing on **well-established, undrugged** vulnerabilities
- Establishing **collaboration and IP agreements** to promote drug approval and sustained supply for patients
- Developing a transparent, **open-science paradigm** across government, academia, and industry
- Bringing together **champions** for ultra-rare tumors, biology mechanisms, and technology to rapidly develop drugs

What the proposed PPP is not:

- Competing with other efforts to develop rare tumor therapies
- Focusing on therapeutic approaches not directly related to characteristic molecular alterations
- Focusing on ultra-rare tumors without a clear molecular driver
- Trying to cure all ultra-rare tumors at once!



What Makes a “Ideal” Ultra-Rare Tumor to Pursue?

Prioritization:

- ✓ Low incidence (<1 in 1,000,000) and well-defined diagnostic criteria
- ✓ High mortality/morbidity with no effective therapies (unmet need)
- ✓ Untargeted, well-defined molecular drivers of tumorigenesis
- ✓ Well-characterized experimental model systems
- ✓ Committed advocates
- ✓ Clinician champions willing to lead early phase clinical trials
- ✓ Champions for targets and technological approaches willing to commit to rapid drug optimization

Value of Rare Tumor Research to All Cancer Patients

- Rare tumor researchers must collaborate to be successful
 - Impetus to develop creative solutions to IP and collaboration barriers



- Rare tumor research has informed many of the hallmarks of cancer



- ✓ Retinoblastoma → cell cycle mechanisms (RB1)
- ✓ Von Hippel Lindau → hypoxia (VHL/HIF1 α)
- ✓ Glioblastoma → cellular metabolism (IDH)

- Pathways to drug development and regulatory approval in rare tumors will be relevant to drug development in subtypes of common cancers

- This proposed public-private partnership will address an unmet need in ultra-rare tumors and develop new paradigms and incentives for drug development

Summary

- MyPART has made substantial progress in engaging researcher and advocacy groups for the study of rare tumors
- We have established a strong foundation for the collection and analysis of linked clinical and molecular data on rare tumors
- Our studies have resulted in the development of new, collaborative, pediatric-adult interventional trials
- MyPART is playing a key role in establishing national programs for rare tumor research, particularly in collaboration with CCDI, COG, and FDA

Acknowledgements

- Abby Sandler
- Mary Frances Wedekind Malone
- Jaydira del Rivero
- Robin Lockridge
- John Glod
- Liny John
- Christina Vivelo
- Srivandana Akshintala
- Rosie Kaplan
- Margarita Raygada
- Pam Wolters
- Staci Martin Peron
- Lori Wiener
- Francesco Tomassoni Ardori
- Crystal Flowers
- BJ Thomas
- Donna Bernstein
- Oxana Kapustina
- Taylor Sundby
- Shadin Ahmed
- Erika Kaschak
- Allison Dockman
- Anne Liu
- Eva Dombi
- Andrea Gross
- Jason Levine
- Nurlan Shonkoev
- Yuti Gandhi
- Katie Pendo
- Susan Hughes
- Marcia Young
- Trish Whitcomb
- Arnulfo Mendoza
- Juan Carlos Fierro Pineda
- Rania Dagalakis
- Sri Nair
- Hannah Philipose



Alumni:

- Laura Wisch
 - Christian Mambrin
 - Sarah Fuller
 - Sherri DePollar
 - Taryn Allen
 - Miguel Wolfe
 - Hema Sethumadhavan
 - Impana Shetty
 - Iris Li
 - Chinelo Onyiah
 - Robert Murphy
 - Ashish Jain
 - Hannah Smith
 - Andy Gillespie
 - Julianne Schultz
 - Maran Ilanchezian
- Lab of Pathology
 - Blood Processing Core
 - Developmental Therapeutics Clinic
 - Developmental Therapeutics Branch
 - Mouse Cancer Genetics Program
 - NCI-Frederick Core Facilities
(CSL, CDML, GF, ISF)

Acknowledgements

Thanks to our many colleagues for helpful discussions and collaborations, in particular:

CCDI National Cohort Study

- James Doroshow
- Warren Kibbe
- Jaime Guidry-Auvil
- Tony Kerlavage
- Anne Lubenow
- Greg Reaman
- Malcolm Smith
- Nita Seibel
- Meg Mooney
- Jack Shern
- Doug Hawkins
- Ted Laetsch
- Philip Lupo
- Adam Resnick
- CCDI Engagement Committee

Public-Private Partnership

- Jeff Summers
- Marc Theoret
- Martha Donoghue
- Joan Todd
- Malcolm Smith
- Alice Chen
- Monica Pond
- Billy Bozza
- James Doroshow
- Liz Ottinger
- Joni Rutter
- Stacey Adam
- Dana Connors
- Kat Lambertson
- Anne Lubenow
- Monica Bertagnolli

Special thanks to all the patients, caregivers, and family members who have contributed their time, biospecimens, and medical records for rare tumor research

We appreciate the input and partnership of many advocates in conducting these research programs



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